

# The Weekly Journal.

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J. T. HERSHEMAN ... D. D. HICOTT,  
EDITORS.

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## Speech of Provisional Governor Johnson of Georgia.

At half-past eight o'clock Provisional Governor Johnson was introduced by Judge Starnes in a few brief remarks to a large and respectable assemblage of our citizens at the City Hall.

Governor Johnson said: After a sanguinary conflict of four years, we find ourselves without civil rights, we have been compelled to yield to superior numbers and resources. We are now deprived of all civil government and stand under the military authority of the United States, and must look to that authority for protection and the administration of justice, but I do not think the people of Georgia desire to always remain under military rule. The Administration desires to do all that can be done to assist you in restoring civil government, and placing the State in her proper relation to the Union. For that purpose I have been appointed Provisional Governor, and I am here to-night to make known my views. My duty is plain and simple—the making of needful rules for the assembling of a Convention at the earliest practicable day, that the people, the true source of all rightful power, may erect a civil government. My warrant for the authority I may exercise is the Proclamation of the President appointing me.

The duty of the people is to take the oath of amnesty as prescribed by the President's proclamation of May 29th, which grants a full pardon for all political offenses, to all who were entitled to take it; and he did not think that the oath was intended to humiliate the people, but only as a necessary measure to prevent those getting into power who were not friends of the Government.

If there were any who deemed that subscribing to the oath as prescribed by President Lincoln was sufficient to return them to the rights of citizenship would not say whether they were legally right or not, it was a question useless to argue, as the President had distinctly said that no one should be eligible to seats in the Convention or be entitled to vote for delegates who had not taken the oath prescribed May 29th; and he would therefore urge every one to come forward and take the oath, that they may assist in forming a State Government.

He had been informed that some were hesitating to do so on the ground that it compelled them to support and obey the Emancipation Proclamation which they did not believe constitutional. To such he would not say that, whether constitutional or not, it would make very little difference; as he thought slavery would soon be abolished by the amendment to the Constitution, which now wanted but the consent of two more States to become the law of the land, and he thought that consent would soon be given. But whether given or not, as a lawyer, he believed that slavery was and is legally abolished by the Proclamation in virtue of the power given to the President as Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, which gave him the right to declare what should be captured or destroyed, and having

declared slavery dead, it ceased whenever and wherever the power of their army extended, therefore it would be unwise to refuse to be qualified so as to take part in the affairs of the State on this ground. Paroled soldiers who have taken the oath of allegiance would also be required to take the amnesty oath. He expressed a hope that every one entitled, would go forward and be qualified.

For himself he would say that his policy would not be to punish, but rather to restore every one to their rights as citizens, and he felt authorized in saying, from an interview which he had had with the Law Officer of the Government, that it was not the intention of the Administration to humiliate or harass the people, and no one, he believed, would ever be prosecuted for treason after taking the oath of amnesty, or if so, they would never suffer any of the penalties for it.

Mr. Johnson concluded by exhorting the people to benevolent feelings and charitable acts; and asking their co-operation in the duties imposed by his responsible position.

We have given but an outline of the Governor's remarks. They were listened to with marked attention, and were well received by a large and intelligent audience.—*Chronicle and Sentinel.*

## The Failure of Gen. Lee.

The caprice of fortune and the uncertainty of war have been signally illustrated in the lot of Gen. Lee. We remember that, in the rumor that it is intended to indict him for treason, but fate has visited him hardly enough already. For him alone, the most consummate of all commanders in America, was reserved a destiny which his own lieutenants and his oft-defeated rivals were permitted to escape. He alone lost a decisive battle. He alone suffered an absolute and irremediable disaster. Never before, in the whole history of the war, was a victory followed up, a rout made complete, or an army compelled to surrender. Never before was a general-in-chief taken prisoner in the field by another general-in-chief; never was a campaign concluded by capitulation and submission. The braggarts and blunderers who at the beginning of the war cost their countrymen so dearly, still evaded this extremity of disaster, and were always enabled to report their armies as "safe."

Lee himself, after one of his most brilliant victories, lamented the invariable absence of results, and complained that he could never capture a division or even a brigade of the vanquished enemy. These trophies it was his fate not to win for himself, but to contribute to others. The war was at last concluded and the cause lost by the very commander who had done more than all the rest to promote and sustain them. Yet all this did in reality but speak for his extraordinary ability. He suffered the final defeat simply because he was the last to be beaten.

His lieutenants escaped because he was conquered. Early was gradually driven out of the Shenandoah Valley by Sheridan, but he had Richmond open to his rear. Johnson was driven across the Carolinas, but he held his forces together with the assurance that there was Richmond to retire upon. Lee, however, the support and stay of all the rest, had only his own army and his own position the armies of one adversary after another steadily closed. Whenever a divisional commander retreated before a federal force, that force became disengaged for the combined campaign against Lee. He held Richmond so long that at last there was nothing else left for the enemy to take. The Capitols of Georgia though far in his rear, had been taken already, and

although he still guarded the frontier of the Confederacy, the interior had been penetrated and occupied behind him. North and South, East and West, the foe gradually encompassed him, and for months the end was at hand. That this end, for him should be not only defeat, but prosecution, is too strange an event to be believed. Twelve months ago there was not an American at the North but would have enthusiastically hailed his accession to the command of all the armies of the Republic.

It is obvious, however, that the abruptness of the end, combined with the terrible crime by which it was signalized, has affected the American Government. Not only is a new and more uncompromising President at the head of State, but the State itself is, under the influence of natural passion, peace came at last with an absolute shock, and the collapse of the South was so sudden and complete that it removed all immediate necessity of conciliation or compromise. Let the North do what they will, the South for the present can fight no more. The stories from Arkansas and Texas are appalling, and indeed, we know that no organized forces from these parts could be brought effectually upon the scene of war, even when the Mississippi was in the hands of the Confederates. The North, in short, is so absolutely master of the field that President Johnson is exempted from many of the considerations which President Lincoln but a few months since would have been compelled to entertain. Yet it must be acknowledged that Lee's military policy has been the cause of the present situation. The entire war gradually prevailed with him in his internal administration over theoretical conceptions of all chance and treason.

The whole course of this civil war has been unique in its character. The Confederate leaders did more than any insurgent chief have ever done, and ended with less to show for it. There's was no Provisional Government, organized in secrecy and maintained at hazard. For four years they claimed place openly, and not unreasonably among the States of the world. If the Confederate Government was not recognized in diplomatic form, it obtained, at any rate, every other kind of acknowledgement. It was known on the exchanges of Europe, and contracted loans on no unreasonable terms. It found its way into our Year Books and geographies, and became for its brief term of existence a genuine political reality. Posterity may turn even to the respectable *Almanac de Gotha*, and learn who were the Southern officers of State in the year 1864. Great English statesmen recognized the creation of a new nation, and yet of that nation there remains less now than usually survives even the most hopeless insurrection. Six weeks sufficed to convert secession from a mighty revolution into a treasonable crime.—*London Times, June 7.*

One of the largest banking houses in the United States is in the Baden Baden of America (Savannah). It is called the Faro Bank. John Morrissey (of Hoeman notoriety) is President. Ten thousand dollars may be staked (and lost) on a card. Ladies get gentlemen to play for them, says the correspondent of the *World*.

It is said there are persons who live at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, keep their carriages, and have a box at the opera, and yet only return an income of \$300. This is jealously accounted for by the fact that every man has a right to deduct his house rent from his income, and by the supposition that each one of these persons deducts the rental of the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

From the Columbia Phoenix of July 28.

To EDITOR OF THE PHOENIX—SIR.—Numerous communications having been addressed to me, proposing to form a colony to emigrate, I take this method of answering them, not only on account of their number, but because of the want of all mail facilities. The desire to leave a country which has been reduced to such a deplorable condition as ours, and whose future has so little of hope, is doubtless as widespread as it is natural. But I doubt the propriety of this expatriation of so many of our best men. The very fact that our State is passing through so terrible an ordeal as the present, should cause her sons to cling the more closely to her. My advice to all of my fellow-citizens is, that they should devote their whole energies to the restoration of law and order, the re-establishment of agriculture and commerce, the promotion of education and the rebuilding of our cities and dwellings which have been laid in ashes. To accomplish these objects—the highest that patriotism can conceive—I recommend that all who can, do so should take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, so that they may participate in the restoration of civil government to our State. War, after four years of heroic but unsuccessful struggle, has failed to secure to us the rights for which we engaged in it. To save our rights—to rescue anything more from the general ruin—will require all the statesmanship and all the patriotism of our citizens. If the best men of our country—those who for years past have risked their lives in our defense—refuse to take the oath, they will be excluded from the bosom of the State, and its destiny will be committed of necessity to those who forsook her in her hour of need, or to those who would gladly pull her down to irretrievable ruin. To guard against such a calamity, let all true patriots devote themselves, with zeal and honesty, of purposes, to the restoration of law, the blessings of peace and to the rescue of whatever of liberty may be saved from the general wreck. If, after an honest effort to effect these objects, we fail, we can then seek a home in another country. A distinguished citizen of our State—an honest man and a true patriot—has been appointed Governor. He will soon call a convention of the people, which will be charged with the most vital interests of our State. Choose for this convention your best and truest men; not those who have skulked in the hour of danger—not those who have worshipped Mammon, while their country was bleeding at every pore—not the politician, who after urging war, dared not encounter its hardships—but these who laid their all upon the altar of their country. Select such men, and make them serve as your representatives. You will then be sure that your rights will not be wantonly sacrificed, nor your liberty bartered for a mess of pottage. My intention is to pursue the course I recommend to others. Besides the obligations I owe to my State, there are others of a personal character which will not permit me to leave the country at present. I shall devote myself earnestly, if allowed to do so, to the discharge of these obligations, public and private. In meantime, I shall obtain all information which would be desirable in the establishment of a colony, in case we should ultimately be forced to leave the country. I invoke my fellow-citizens—especially those who have shared with me the perils and the glories of the last four years—to stand by our State manfully and truly. The Roman Senate voted thanks to one of their generals, because, in the darkest hour of the Republic, he did not despair. Let us emulate the example of the Roman, and thus entitle ourselves to the gratitude of our country.

Respectfully, yours,  
WADE HAMPTON.